The Twelte Days of Water Satings

Are you looking for "green" gift ideas or stocking stuffers for friends and family for the holiday season?

The City of Santa Clara Water Utility would like to help you with some gift ideas that are not only fun and save money for the recipient, but can make the gift giver feel good about helping keep our creeks, green spaces, Bay and planet clean.

One water wise house call

This free survey offers suggestions on ways to use water more efficiently both inside and outside the home. Call 800-548-1882 for more information or to set up an appointment. Past survey participants have lowered their water usage by an average of 30 gallons per day, or 11,000 gallons per year.

Two water saving appliances

A Water efficient clothes washer and dishwasher would be a great gift! Santa Clara Valley Water District offers a Clothes Washer Rebate Program 265-2607 ext. 2554 or www.waterenergysavings.com. New water-efficient washing machines use about 40% less water and 70% less energy than older models. On average, a typical household will save 6,450 gallons of water, between \$80-100 in electricity, and \$54 in detergent costs on a yearly basis. Rebates range from \$125 to \$200.

Three high efficiency toilets

Purchase them with a rebate of up to \$125 from the Santa Clara Valley Water District High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program. Call 877-874-8479 or visit www.valleywater.org. A high efficiency toilet can reduce water usage by roughly 20%.

Four toilet leak detection tablets

Free dye tablets - great for stocking stuffers - can help you tell if your toilet is leaking. Available at the Water Department. The average home in Santa Clara County wastes more than 14,000 gallons of water a year due to leaks, mostly from toilets.

Five aerators

Screw-on devices limit flow from bathroom and kitchen sinks and are available for free at the Santa Clara City Hall Water Department.

Six car wash certificates

Commercial car washes have recirculation systems to reuse water. These systems also help keep car cleaning products from soaking into the groundwater or going into the storm drain.

Seven feet of tubing for a drip irrigation system

This will help get water directly to where it is needed, limiting runoff/evaporation. A weather-based controller would be a nice addition as well.

Eight water-wise gardening books and magazines

Start the collection with three free publications available from the City of Santa Clara Water Department: "Water-Wise Gardening," "Rules of Thumb for Water- Wise Gardening," and "How to Water your Garden."

Nine worms for composting

Add a book about composting to encourage the use of natural fertilizers over chemical products that can get into the ground water or end up in the storm drain.

Ten pounds of mulch

Covering the ground around plants lowers wasteful evaporation. Mulch can save 750 to 1,500 gallons of water a month.

Eleven square yards of pool cover material

Limit evaporation when your swimming pool is not in use. By using a pool cover, you can save 90 to 95% of the water that would otherwise be lost to evaporation.

Twelve drought tolerant plants

Santa Clara County residents can receive up to \$1,000 by replacing high water using plants, such as turf grass, with low water using plants from an approved plant list or by installing permeable hardscape. Rebate amount depends on the square footage of high water using vegetation removed. Contact Water Wise Consulting at (866) 685-2322 to schedule a pre-inspection.



Free stocking
stuffers like low
flow shower heads,
replacement toilet
flappers and hose
shut off nozzles
can be obtained
from the Water
Department at City
Hall
(408) 615-2000